



Name of Property: Lightship LV-118 (*Overfalls*)
City, State: Lewes, Delaware
Significant Dates: 1938-1972
NHL Criteria: 1 and 4, Exception 8
NHL Theme: Expanding Science and Technology
2. Technological Applications
Previous Recognition: 1989 National Register of Historic Places
National Historic Context: XIV. Transportation
B. Ships, Boats, Lighthouses, and Other Structures
XVIII. Technology (Engineering and Invention)
B. Transportation
1989 *The Maritime Heritage of the United States National Historic Landmark Theme Study; Part One: Large Preserved Historic Vessels; Lightships*

NHL Significance:

- Lightship LV-118 is unique as the only small-hulled, diesel/diesel-electric powered third-generation lightship ever constructed, and as the last lightship built using riveted-hull construction.
- It is the last lightship constructed for and commissioned by the U.S. Lighthouse Service, and as one of only two lightships constructed in the twentieth century pursuant to a

specific appropriation from the U.S. Congress.

- The ship spent its service life at three stations, each of them ranking in the top 15% of U.S. lightship stations maintained in continuous service.

Integrity:

- Between 2008 and 2009, the ship's hull was fully rehabilitated. Work performed to reestablish full watertight integrity included: cleaning and painting the original hull plates; cutting, shaping, cleaning, and painting new 5/16" steel hull plates; and installing new hull plates over the deteriorated original hull.
- The original wheel was removed when the ship was decommissioned in 1972, however, a 43-inch diameter brass wheel has since replaced it.
- The ship is among 17 surviving U.S. lightships, and retains integrity in her deck plan, appearance, function, fabric, and equipment, which remain almost entirely unchanged from what they were when the ship was originally commissioned.

Owner of Property: Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre.

Origins of Nomination: The Overfalls Maritime Museum Foundation prepared the nomination.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Designation will further the goals of maintaining and promoting the lightship as a museum. Designation will also encourage local heritage tourism.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Carson moved, Dr. Seale seconded; unanimous approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 11/02/10):

Thomas R. Carper, U.S. Senate, Delaware
 Edward E. Kaufman, U.S. Senate, Delaware
 Michael N. Castle, U.S. Congress, Delaware
 Timothy A. Slavin, Director and State Historic Preservation Officer, Delaware
 Wayne Kirklin, Lewes, Delaware
 Frederick W. Dasch, Friedensburg, Pennsylvania
 Tracy Mulveny, President, *Overfalls* Foundation, Lewes, Delaware (owner)

Advisory Board Recommendation:

National Park System Advisory Board